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#4982-z
HARVEY REID PAPERS

1862-1865

Folder 1 of 1

S. B. Sears, Bookseller.

HEAD QUARTERS,
22d REG'T WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS,
Camp Dutch Hollow
Cincinnati, Oh. Sept 20 1862.

Dear Cousin Will, and all the rest:

We are all safe in the big city of Cincinnati. Arrived Wednesday night about 10 O'clock, and I wrote to you a letter home & have had so much excitement here that I have nearly neglected you. We got started from Racine a little after 1 P.M., arrived in Chicago without incident worthy of note, except running over a cow, at 5 O'clock.

Headed by our Band and commanded by the field and staff officers mounted, we marched through Lake Street to the West Central Union Depot, where

we took seats in the Michigan Central R.R. cars and partook of a cup of hot coffee furnished by the Y.M.C.A. We sat here for 2 hours, starting from C. at 9 arrived at St. Cily at 11, where we changed engines, but not cars, and took the direction of Indianapolis, where we arrived at 11 P.M. of Wednesday. Here we again had hot coffee served and had to wait till the shoulder straps went up town for dinner. Reached Lawrenceburg on the Ohio at 6, where we found great excitement. Picket guards of citizens were posted along the river for some distance each side of the city. About 4 miles from here we found a regiment encamped on the bank of the river, which we learned was the 19th. Michigan, performing picket duty along the river.

10 O'Clock found us in Cincinnati. We were immediately marched to the Fifth St. Market House where we partook of a supper of dry bread boiled ham and cool coffee. This finished, the right wing of the regt went to a Dutch boarding house across the street and bunked down on the floor and tables and slept soundly till morning, the left wing is at a Hall further down the street. We are in the same place yet taking the same kind of meals three times a day at the Market. Our quarters are comfortable, but are so confined that it makes the boys discontented. But we have just received orders to prepare to start for Louisville in two hours

& got permission to go out yesterday & Mr. with Sergeants Foster & Northrup We found an acquaintance (Walker formerly Harness maker at W. G) and were shown some of the sights. We first to the Water Works where we saw three of the largest engines in the U.S. We then went on to Ground Adam, on the western boundary of the city, where Mitchell's Observatory is situated. From different parts of this hill the whole city of Cincinnati, and the cities of Covington & Newport, can be seen. We could also the camps in Kentucky, about 4 miles out. We know nothing of the prospect of fight, but I should like to help attack Dumfordsville. We drew 40 rounds of cartridges & caps, Thursday and yesterday got our shirts. But I must close if I get this off before we march

Truly Your

J Carver

Camp Baird,
Danville, Ky. Jan. 18th 1863.

Dear Uncle:

Your letter was received in due time and right glad was I to hear from you, and to hear that your health is better. We have left our pleasant place at the Ky. River bridge, and have had a little more severe experience in soldiering. John Morgan's raid into Kentucky gave us some work to do, though none in the "shooting" line. Dec. 24th. Lt. Meade received orders to fortify the bridge by cutting portholes in the inside, and planking it, and cutting timber for a barricade at one end. Christmas day, therefore, we spent in cutting down trees for the barricade from the farm of a Captain in the rebel army, a detail also being made to commence the work of lining the inside of the bridge with plank. The next day

it rained so that we could not work and in the P.M., received news that the regt. with the remainder of the division had started on a march for Mumfordsville, and orders to start in the morning and overtake them. We started accordingly but on [illegible] in Danville met them returning. They had marched 14 miles when they received orders to come back again, but on Monday, the 29th. the 22d. and the 23d. Cav. were again ordered to Lebanon — we marched within 6 miles of the town and again were ordered back.

On the night of the 30th. we encamped 16 miles from Danville, and were aroused at 2 o'clock in the morning to repel an expected attack by Morgan. But after waiting in the darkness and cold until daylight, we resumed our march to Danville without interruption, and have since learned that Morgan was not on that side of Lebanon. But the boys were mad when we turned around

within 6 miles of our destination. Every one felt that they would rather fight twice their number than to make a countermarch that looked so much like a retreat. What this 44 miles march was all for, I have not the most distant idea, but, presume that the "starred" gentlemen saw a great strategic movement in it.

Two weeks since, we received two boxes from Union Grove weighing in the aggregate over 500 lbs. filled with butter, soft bread, cheese, cake, pies, baked chicken, apples dried fruit &c. and consequently we have been living in clover lately. The boxes had been over two weeks coming and the chicken and some of the bread were spoiled. We have just been having a touch of real Northern weather. It commenced raining about 2 A.M. the 14th. inst. and rained and snowed for 48 hours without a moments cessation. Thursday night it froze up and Friday

was the coldest day we have yet seen in Kentucky. It was not as cold however as many days I have seen in Wisconsin. This storm has probably extended over the rest of the U. S. for we have had no mail for three days. This however is owing to bridges being carried away between Cincinnati and Lexington. We are very comfortably situated here, having purchased a small sheet iron stove and raised our tent by sewing drilling 3/4 yd. wide under it. The stove and cloth has cost $13.20 for 12 of us, but have more than paid for themselves already by the added comfort.

I hope Willie will take courage to write me. I am afraid he will forget how. Give my love to aunt, Sara, and all the little folks.

Yours affectionately

Harvey Reid

Fort Rosecrans Murfreesboro
Dec. 17th. 1863

Dear Cousin:

I received your very welcome letter with one from Uncle enclosed a week ago today. I am very much obliged indeed for the boots that he kindly proposes to send me. The rainy season has already commenced here and Tennessee mud is very much like that necessary nuisance in other states. Uncle Samuel's pants are very good shoes and very cheap but they will leak at the tip. Some of the regiments had an opportunity of drawing boots about two weeks ago, but they could not get enough to supply all that required them, and as I happened to be absent from camp when they arrived, I failed to get any.

We had a dance match for rebels

behind our entrenchments on the 5th. inst. when Oberlin marched thro' the place which I understand is now magnified in Dixonville to a skirmish in which several of the rebels were wounded. The rebels came within two miles of the fortifications, but they did not dare to venture within range of our big guns, and we did not have force enough (about 600 infantry) to go out & give them a fight, & they did not enjoy the luxury of a fight. A company of the 19th Ohio were taken at a bridge about four miles from here which probably gave rise to the report as they had some or five wounded.

The destruction of R.R. bridges in this vicinity delayed the passage of one division of the 12th. Army Corps which was being sent to reinforce Rosecrans. One brigade of them stopped here and the whole

Corps is now assigned to the duty of guarding this railroad, so we shall therefore either be transferred to that Corps or be sent to the front. We are now under the command of Brig. Gen. Green Candy the 12th Corps Brigade here, as he is also Commander of the Post.

Reports of all kinds come to us and we hear from high authority that we are going to Battle Creek or Bridgeport in the Tennessee — to Nashville to Do Brown's City — and that we are to be transferred to the 12th Corps & remain here, we don't believe any of them yet. It is new and that we hate to move this time of year with the poor tents that we have, we would rather go there not as we have got tired of staying so long in one place.

It is reported that Gen. Sherman's

Corps is now at Louisville awaiting transportation to Kingston. We like to see the soldiers pass here. but it is inconvenient with our mail and express matter to have the roads so roughened.

Nothing has yet been heard as to the result of the Bloodyford battle. We can only wait & defined if communication from Weather has anything.

Please excuse this short letter as I just came in and want to mail it today.

Give love to all

Your affectionate cousin

Stanley Reed

Camp Roseman, Lumpkinsburg, Ga.
Nov. 6th, 1863.

Dear M.

The box which you had the kindness to send me became the property of some rascally villain and was opened & rifled & then sealed up again & sent on. I was absent from camp yesterday, and on a foraging party, but when the box came I was immediately sent for & opened it & found nothing in it but some paper, & some rogues had very evidently rifled it before. But as they all contain something valuable it is not surprising that rogues should take advantage of their being in R.R. stations, as they sometimes do. I don't suppose that its value can be recovered without a long and troublesome lawsuit, and perhaps not then. Though I should value the box very highly as your gift, I shall not suffer great inconvenience from their loss. I have made application for a pair from home & if I do not get them, my duties do not call me out of the ranks much unless it rains, and then most of the boys prefer shoes as being less liable to make the feet sore. I have received a pair of gloves from home.

I received a letter from Will on the 17th Oct. just after I had written to him and another today. You will please consider this a reply to both Will's letters all at once.

The decision in Col. Bloodgood's trial is at last announced. The order was, rec'd. on the 31st ult. dismissing him from the service for "misbehavior before the enemy", "neglect of duty" and "cowardly surrender at Brentwood". Col. and Quartermaster Ellis has more of effect with our Brigadier General than truth, honor & even evidence, because some of them were privates, & some Col. Ellis received the order for his dismissal and was added to it as Commander of the post an order that Col. B. should leave the regiment immediately. We knew that Col. B. intended to stay here until the case was finally decided in Washington and thus force Ellis to procure a board down town when he had been kept under arrest four months and, being dismissed, could receive no pay after the date of his arrest. It was a base insult worthy of the man. Gen. Stokes was here today and will use all his influence to have the case properly represented to the President, and it may be that we will yet have a soldier and a gentleman to command us, instead of an ignorant, cowardly, perjured hot-house bully. The day after Col. Bloodgood left the regiment a paper was put in circulation expressing ~~the confidence~~ as his fox, confidence in his courage, skill, and judgment as an officer &c. and

that many feared to displease the "boys" who has always done his best to keep popular with the "boys" if received the signature of a large majority of those present in the camp.

The election in camp went nearly unanimous in favor of the Union candidates. Lewis receiving 433 votes to 10 for Palmer. In Co. C. Lewis & Hastings each received 40 votes out of 50, the other candidates 46, except Skinner who only received 15. On Assemblyman and Supervisor in Racine there was more difference in Assembly 25 votes to 7 for Page, and on Supervisor the vote stood Mead 19; Raymond 11. In the evening occurred a scene which all but the worst radicals consider a disgrace to the regiment and if endorsed by a majority of the regt would be sufficient reason for denying to us the right of suffrage. This was the voting on a paid ticket of a member of Co. C. for voting the Palmer ticket. Could such a fellow of Racine, would have been served the same way but the boys would not prove positively that he had voted that ticket (I happen to know that he did, however)

We have another Wisconsin regiment with us now, the 31st lately arrived from Columbus, Ky. They seem like old acquaintances, we have seen so few Wisconsin men since we have been out. The 13th. Col. Dyon, is in Nashville doing Provost duty. The Potomac regts. having gone to the front we are likely to remain here all winter. Col. Coburn, our Brigade Commander, returned yesterday and will resume command of the ~~regt.~~ It is reported that Col. Utley has obtained leave of absence to visit home. I hope he will never come back again.

The health of the regiment continues excellent. The Doctors will soon forget their profession I think.

Please pardon haste.

Your Affectionate nephew

Harvey Reid

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For the Proprietors,

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Agent.

(THOMAS, TYPOGRAPHER, BUFFALO.)

Fortress Rosecrans.
Murfreesboro, Tenn. Feby 17/64.

Dear Cousin:

It is a warm, almost summer like day, the atmosphere is hazy and smoky, every body feels dull, lazy and spring-like, but I must try and muster courage to reply your letter received a week ago. It seems hard to realize that there can be any part of the country covered with snow while we have to keep our coats off if we wish to enjoy life.

I have been in business for the last two weeks, clerking for our sutler while he is gone to Wisconsin. We expect him back every day now, but perhaps I may stay with him longer. He pays me at the rate of $15 a month.

I like the business first rate now, but it seemed rather confining

at first after I had been doing nothing but soldiering for a year and a half.

Our two Lieutenants, Bauman and Lawrence have both resigned and started for home Monday.

Lawrence resigned on a surgeon's certificate, he having had several severe attacks of rheumatism of the heart since he has been with us.

Bauman's resignation was approved "for the good of the service", it being sent in to avoid a court-martial and dismissal on the charge of "Insubordination", "Disrespectful language to superior officers" &c. for to such a pitch has the Utley-Bloodgood case arrived. Utley thinks that he has everything fixed now — the new Governor has notified him that he will recognize his (Utley's) recommendations for officers to fill vacancies in his regiment

and now Utley wants to get rid of the old set as soon as possible. He has two Captains (Bones, Co. "K." & Brown, Co. "B.") under arrest now, and said yesterday that if Capts. Griffiths, Co. "F." and Capt. Burgess Co. "E" and Adj't Cornick did not offer their resignations in two days, they, two, should be court martialed. I don't know whether he will make his threat good or not, but I don't think they will resign.

Bloodgood returned to the regiment a week ago today, with a new commission as Lieut. Col. and muster-in papers endorsed with the order of the Secy of War reinstating him, but Lieut. Utley refused to recognize the papers as valid because they did not come through the regular channel of Dept. Division & Brigade Hd-Quarters, and he is not yet mustered upon the regimental rolls. He says the proceedings of

the Court Martial that dismissed him were reviewed by Judge Advocate General Holt, and disapproved before he (Bloodgood) went to Washington at all. We are all sick and tired of the trouble and confusion that this whole affair has created, but I want to see one more Court Martial before it is through with.

It was at first feared that the Colonel would not recommend our ranking Sergeants, Louis Dickinson and Charles E. White, for the vacant Lieutenancies, but as near as we can find out he has done so, partly because the Govr has refused to "jump" men unless definite charges were proved against them and partly because he could find no non-commissioned officers in the Co. of "Utley" sentiments of higher rank than 5th. Corporal.

We shall not probably stay here much longer. — About the 1st of January, Coburn's brigade and another brigade of Western troops now stationed at or near Nashville, were

Page(s)

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P. S. Address Annie Belvidere, Ill. Care of Mr. Guscelon.

Racine July 20/64

Dear Brother,

You said in your fourth letter you should like to have me write, I had intended to do so before but have put it off from time to time untill quite a while has elapsed. Mr. Clough intends sending a box tomorrow, so we will send you a few things; you must not be disappointed because we did not send more; every thing is so high;

now that it takes a great deal to buy a little. Flour, best quality $7.50 per sack sugar common 25 cts, calico 40 cts. per yard &c. I wish you could be here now and see our garden, the currants are ripe and we are drying some this week; we have had peas and green beans three or four times, and shall soon have potatoes. Mother wants to know if you found 3 cakes and some cookies in the box? she was afraid that the bottle of pickles would break, you must not

drink more of that river water than you can help. Mr. D. H. Jones is selling off his goods at cost he is going to reside in New York. Abie Burnham sends word that he wants to you to come back and teach the S. S. School he is in again. When you write please mention John Burnham as it would please Mr. Decker. Tell the boys they need not trouble themselves about the Misses Seamens for now they have Albert

Dickey for their beaux,
he takes first one a rideing
and then the other. We are
all well. We have not had
any more of your Photograph
taken and do not know
when we will but if we
do soon we will send you
some. Mr. Erskine received
a telegraphic dispatch yes-
terday saying Jo reman was
not expected to live, every
one feels verry sorry about
it. he started on the first
train for Memphis. Sara
Shepherd sends her best
respects. Write soon.
From your Aff. Sister S. R.

we then confiscated his black hide to pay for the expenses of killing him his body was thrown in to the River as a warning to all other Black dogs to always be loyal to their Masters. I have come to the conclusion that thes Black dogs ain't much account.

I send you $3.00 in green backs to pay your expenses home when you get through working for Uncle Abe.

Pleas acuse this short letter yours truly
H. C. Reid.

Aug 18

Dear Brother

I received a letter from Cousin Sara A. a few days ago, her school is not out yet; she writes a splended letter, she said she was "both surprised and sorry to here you had enlisted". I guess your bol. will not try to capture any more "Reb's" it will cost him quite a bill, he should have guarded the guide ~~XXX~~ ~~XXX~~ untill he knew if what he said was true. It is very hot here, but not so hot as in Memphis I suppose. We are to have some green corn to-day for the first time, I suppose you had corn weeks ago. Mr Hutchins is here, but I have not heard how he is. I hope you will not have to stay over your time, it will be too bad if you do. Mr Roberts sends his respects

to you. Miss Lewis has a new singing class Henry and I attend she says she wishes you were here that you were more help to her than six others; the second night the Misses Seaman and A. E came in, they looked all around and Miss Lewis asked them to sit down "Well I can't stay" said Em, "we had better" said A. E "Oh, my land I can't stay" said Em, and off they went, and that is the last we have seen of them. There is 12 of us girls and no gentlemen but Henry, two of your Capt's sisters come. Mother says she will be very much gratified to visit Aunt Maria's with you and attend Annie's wedding, and will be ready when you come. Mother says to be very careful of your life and health. You must take this as an answer to your letter to me.

no more just now. From your Aff
Sister Sara

Office A. A. G. 2d Brig. 3d Div. 20th A.C.
Goldsboro. N.C. March 28th 1865

Dear Lincoln:

After having been shut out for nearly two months from all intercourse with, and almost from all knowledge of any of the world not contained within "Sherman's army," the reception of letters from home and friends seems almost like the first burst of sunshine after a long, cold, dark storm. The first mail we received after leaving the Savannah River was two days ago, and your kind and very welcome letter was among them. I, too, have been somewhat neglectful of my correspondents during the past year; but, as you are aware, it has been a very busy one in this part of the world, and none the less so for me because the department I am connected with is more devoted to saving life than destroying it. During our stay at and near Savannah my time was more fully occupied than usual, because Lieut. Harbert, for most of the time issued rations to the whole Division and part of the time to the Corps. — Our marches

and labor since leaving Atlanta have been arduous and unceasing, but to me have been more pleasant than otherwise. The opportunity of seeing so much and so varied scenery and scenes more amply repaid me for the comparatively small fatigue it entailed. The late campaign has been much more fatiguing than the one from Atlanta. The greater duration, the more inclement weather, and the general swampy nature of the country making a slow rate of travel and now often travel by night, necessary, have made this much less of a "holiday march" than its predecessor, but the "good living" obtained from the plunder of Pattison and the consciousness of making history without constant exposure to whistling bullets (for soldiers do not count death only as cheerfully as novelists and "our own correspondents" would have us believe), have conspired to keep the men cheerful and even enthusiastic. I cannot help believing that this great stride of Sherman's from Atlanta to Savannah is as great a stride towards the close of this war. But it has visited a great and terrible retribution upon the poor misguided people of those states who began the bloody struggle. I have no objection to the principle of living upon the enemy's country, and could take from the poorest house almost the last morsel of food for the army leaving their more fortunate neighbors to feed them, but when General officers allow their men to pillage helpless women and children of every particle of furniture, bed clothing, and even their own clothing except what they actually have on, and then burn their houses over their heads, without a word of prohibition or a single case of punishment, I think our country has a great crime to answer for. If any one thinks that the peoples of South Carolina can ever be loyal subjects of the U.S. Government he must have a very strong faith in the goodness of human nature. — You will get full particulars of our campaign through the papers so I need not enter into any of its details.

The 123d N.Y. Regt. is in the 20th Corps but in another Division and therefore I have seldom met any of its members. A soldier rarely forms any acquaintances outside his Brigade, unless by mere accident. I shall try and become acquainted with Lieut. Reid however if an opportunity offers. — Everything has passed off

harmoniously in the 22d since Col. Utley left Col. Blodgett is now universally respected throughout the Brigade. He was severely ill while we were at Savannah, and obtained leave of absence to visit his home. He has not yet returned, nor have we heard whether his health is improved or not. Capt. Mead returned to the Regt. day before yesterday after and absence of seven months. He has been on duty in Chattanooga, and Dalton, Ga. and came to Newbern in charge of a battalion of convalescent soldiers for the 17th Corps.

Quite and excitement was created in Co. A on the arrival of the mail by the reception of Lieut. Cummings by old Mrs. Guilty, in his own George's regt and by Edward Lawrence in the 44th in which I hear that Frank has a field office. Capt. Robt. Pugh of Co. F. also received a promotion as Lt. Col. of the 53d. This is a worthy promotion for "Bob." has proved himself an excellent officer.

We begin to almost count the days of our continuance in the service. Co. A. has but little more than four months and a half. I hear that volunteering is again quite brisk, and something about a draft but have not gained a connected history of the United States since our late cut off. I hope Willie does not have to go again. I am sorry to hear that Aunt's health continues so poor.

Love to all, including the little cousin, Libby Kate. Please excuse the great haste in which this has been written — Your Affectionate Nephew

Harvey Reid

Address as before
Co. A 9th Reg. N.C. Volunteers
Newbern N.C.

Mr. Reid makes very little difference in our the R.O. of the Regt. Mr. Reid's health was

In my room
Brooklyn June 25th 1865

Dear Cousin Will.

Your letter I think was "long, long, long on the way" or else in getting started, and was very "short and sweet" when it came, and were it not for the circumstances under which it was written I should feel like paying you with "delay", but, owing to those same circumstances, you were quite excusable for its brevity and instead of scolding you, I will thank you for the kind invitation it contained for us to spend the "4th" in your city. Which, however we shall be obliged to decline, as we could hardly leave our schools so long, and when I go to Racine I want to make you twice glad.

And then we want to have Minnie and Sweetie come out here then if they can. You have received a letter from Pa. before now making that request. We are very anxious for them to come, but whenever it suits them best, and they must be sure and bring little Willie. We should like to have Harvey go to Racine very much if the L & S is to be there. but he didn't want to go without L. & S. By the way he is no doubt, with you now. enjoying himself tip top. I wonder if the surprised you as much as he did us. he will tell you how. If he is there tell him we have not read a letter from him yet. Ma was expecting one yesterday when I was home. Brothers obtained a situation for him here with Mr. Stiles the Grain Dealer as clerk for $75 per month.

We are so glad to have him in business here at home, instead of going off somewhere else.

You promised, didn't you, to come home with Harvey when he came back? Will you do so, or will your credit fall when our schools are out and we & I come home at home. I wish the next time you come you would bring Sarah with you, we should like to have her visit us here very much.

How grieved I was to hear of the sad and untimely end of that "Departed Event." To think of its fair young life being wrapped in the bud, and for such criminal offences too. Its peaceful history should plead, and as a warning forever, to all such "Events" to beware of falling upon the merciful charities of such a spark as Dick Allen Reid.

Please to drop a line and let us know if we may hope to see some of the folks on the 4th.

Our Lodge has been suspended for the present, until the last of July. It has been gradually declining for some time and I fear it will quietly pass off in this silent sleep beyond a resurrection. It is time to bring my scribbling to a close, and I will fill up the rest of the page as you did a page and a half. (for you know you have more to share than I) with, love to Sarah.

P.S. Addie B. is quite anxious that I should tell you to send her your photograph. Would you see what a nice boy I have got with my sweetheart. Oh! I wish I could get a sweetheart. Oh! I wish I could get a sweetheart. Oh! I wish I could get a

Page(s)

Missing

But my Uncle & Aunt have always had a wish to be buried at Racine. when the time comes for them to leave us. And as all my family but one brother lie there. I can not help but wish if possible to be placed there also. And as we have the lot with my Uncle and Aunt. would rather keep it. Henry and I talked it over and as I felt that way. he said it should be so.

I hope you will not have to use. one again in years. And why not leave. there poor little bodies with there Grand Father and Mother?

Annie is a young Lady now. And with Etta gone. you must feel. as if your family were growing up fast.

Kathie of course has told you. what we expect in our family. And I look forward with pleasure to the event. As I think it will be lots of company for us all the children. are growing very fast.

and it would not be many years. befor we would not have any littles ones at all. And even with the care they are lots of pleasure as well.

Henry will write this evening if possible. but if he can not. I will send this to morrow. as we do not go after the mail very ofter now. as I am not able to drive very far. at a time. with all my work. And he is so busy.

The children go to school. and in an opposite direction from the post office.

I should like to hear from you. when you can find time. but do not let my letters worry you. would it not be a good ideas if Anna should answer them to Belle. As Belle makes a very good correspondent. and in that way would keep up their aquaintence. Belle is thirteen. and very womenly for her age. And a great help to me.

Hoping this will find you all in better health.

And with the best wishes. from us all. to your family. We remain your affect. Sister and family. Anna Reid.

P.S. Evening. Henry has not had a chance to write this evening. as he had to see some one. about the house but he will write very soon. Love to All Anna.